

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



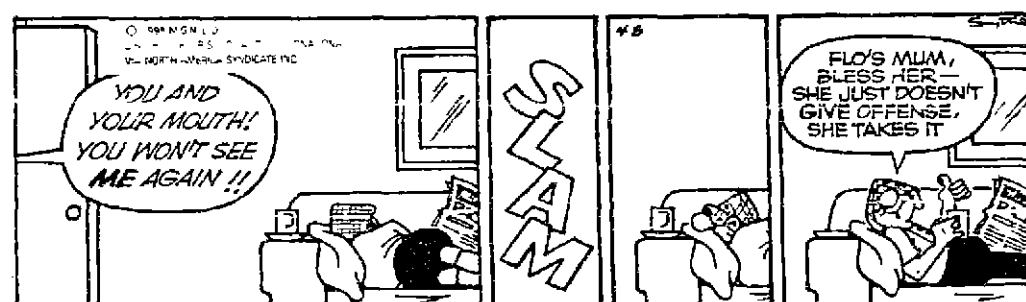
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



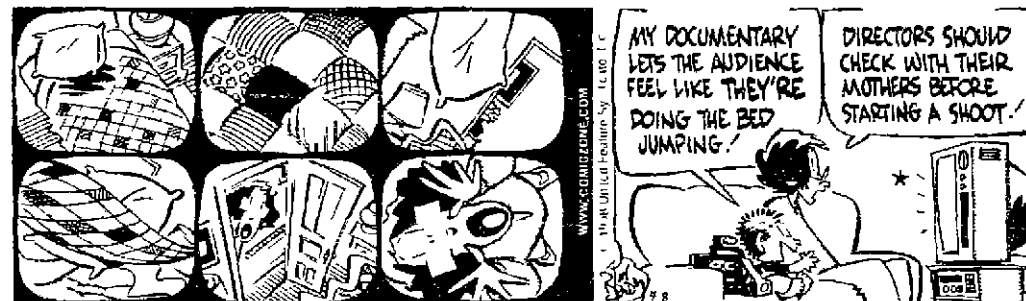
9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



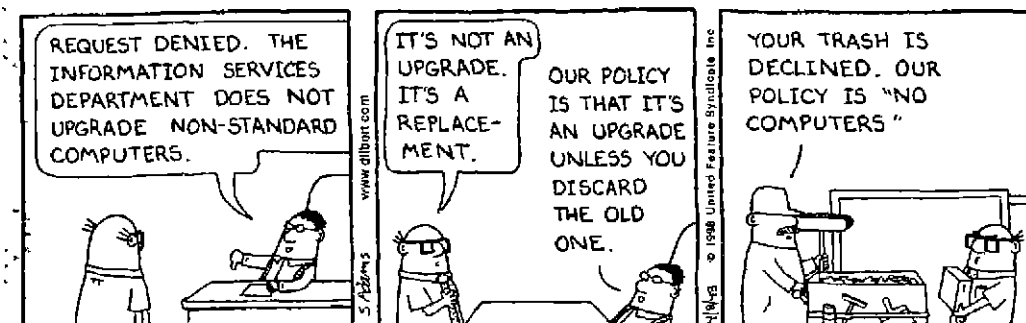
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



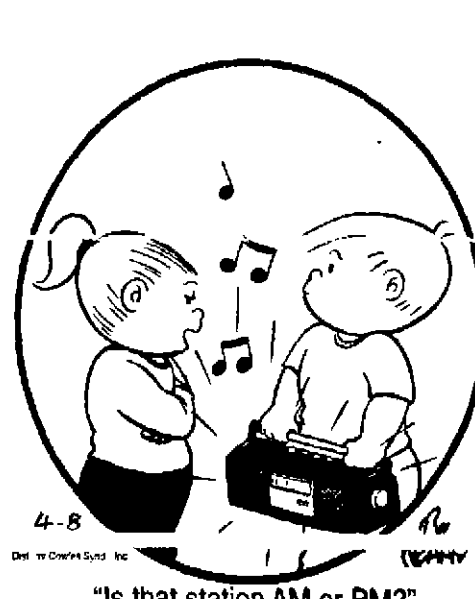
DILBERT



DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Former first lady Betty Ford is 80. Comedian Sheeky Greene is 72. Investigative reporter

61 Basketball Hall-of-Famer John Havlicek is 58. Actor John Schneider is 44. Singer Julian Lennon is 35. Rock singer-musician Donita Sparks is 35. Rapper Biz Markie is 34. Actress Robin Wright Penn is 32. Actress Patricia Arquette is 30. Actor Taran Noah Smith ("Home Improvement") is 14.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 145-155

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scrabble directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Banks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrim-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 4-9-98

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For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

- Gun

Z I E B X U Q N J G D Z E W T
G K O N K M H D A X U S R P M
J A N T I A I R C R A F T G D
A X T A V C D G S E Q N K I F
D A X L T H N L R V T Q O M J
H F C A I I Y G E W U R P T N
Y L W J K N T H T I F D R B Z
X M V O D E G N T T F I R Q O
M K M P L N I H A F U D B Z Y
W S V O T B A R C Q Q O N L K
I H F P T T O H S A L F D C A

Tuesday's unlisted clue: TRIVIAL

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: TOY WATER GUN

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Thursday, April 9, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might feel unappreciated by a higher-up, but perhaps you're taking things too personally.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You can't expect a friend to give more than he or she is capable of. Concentrate on career interests to ensure progress.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Holding things in would only get you down more. Take advantage of those good friends who are willing to hear you out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Although you're not getting your own way, try not to take out your disappointment on others. Home-based activities are best for you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Although you might not have as much money at your disposal as you'd like, you still can have joyous times with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) A task is not as fearsome as you imagined. Once you get started and become involved, things go smoothly for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A family problem could get you down. Snaring your thoughts with a romantic helps to alleviate the blues.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be careful not to strain credit resources. Home-based fun is preferable to outside activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A stunning pick on the job could mean you've been trying too hard and stifling the free flow of intuition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Don't let outside worries interfere with job efficiency. You have a chance to better your position, but it requires your full concentration.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your social life is highlighted. It's a poor time to ask others for favors, especially of a financial nature. Enjoy cultural amusements.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Early in the day, you need to overcome a tendency to be downcast. Try to get at the root of what is bothering you.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

"Perhaps my flat hand was not worth a raise," offered North. "The only reason I stretched it was because of the potential value of my hefty spade sequence."

Did North value his J-10-9 of spades more than 4-5? West led fourth-best to East's spade ace, and when East returned the suit, South finessed West led a third spade to clear the suit, and success now rested with winning four diamond tricks. South led a heart to dummy's ace to take a winning diamond finesse, bringing high hopes for South. He crossed to dummy's club king to repeat the diamond finesse, but west's discard brought bad news. When South could no longer reach dummy for another diamond finesse, he had to concede one down. What about the value of dummy's J-10-9 of spades? They had high value indeed, a value unrecognized by South. To make use of dummy's spades, South should jettison his spade king under East's ace at trick one. This surrenders the finessing position in spades, but the Rule of 11 should tell South where the spade queen is. With this spade king out of the way, South enjoys three dummy entries instead of two, and he picks up four diamond winners and his vulnerable game. Should North have raised with his flat eight HCP? On this deal it should have worked. However, over the long run, if partner's maximum is 17 HCP, a raise with only eight points and a flat hand is against the odds.

NORTH		WEST		EAST	
♠ J 10 9	♥ 4 5	♠ 4 4	♥ 10 6 3	♠ 4 4	♥ 10 6 3
♦ 9 8 7 6	♣ K 6 3	♦ 9 8 7 6	♣ K 5 4 2	♦ 9 8 7 6	♣ K 5 4 2

SOUTH		WEST		EAST	
♠ K 6 3	♥ 10 6 3	♠ 4 4	♥ 10 6 3	♠ 4 4	♥ 10 6 3
♦ 9 8 7 6	♣ K 6 3	♦ 9 8 7 6	♣ K 5 4 2	♦ 9 8 7 6	♣ K 5 4 2

Vulnerable North-South		Dealer South	
NT	Pass	NT	Pass
NT	Pass	NT	Pass
NT	Pass	NT	Pass
NT	Pass	NT	Pass
NT	Pass	NT	Pass

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0225

- ACROSS**
- Start of many instructions
 - Important Phoenician city
 - Letters from 12-Down
 - Carlo Levi's "Christ Stopped at..."
 - Penned
 - 80's White House nickname
 - Month after Adar
 - Keep an — the ground
 - Literary olio
 - Emergency food of Operation Overlord?
 - Pup's cry
 - Overjoys
 - They may have a crush on you
 - College conferrals
 - "— she blows!"
 - They may be slippery
 - Taboo
 - mode
 - Michael Caine spy movie
 - Tuck's partner
 - Writer's joy
 - Downyflake alternative
 - Kind of flea or dollar
 - Astronomical phenomenon
 - Wallet wad
 - Magna —
 - CD —
 - Chalet support, possibly
 - United rival
 - Sugarcoat
 - With 63-Across, comics girlfriend
 - "Bali —"
 - Worn away
 - Zaragoza sir
 - See 59-Across
 - Resided
 - Paradises

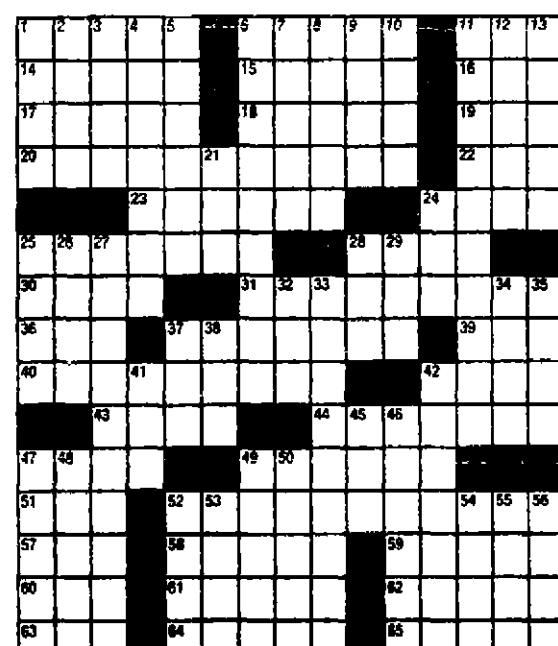
DOWN

- Ward (off)
- Kind of op. cit.
- Parks of civil rights
- Hit men
- Crystal chandelier sound
- Endures apprehensively
- More than miffed
- Day of "Pillow Talk"
- Director Premierer
- Broadway blinker
- Do a post-Challenger diagnosis
- Ancient Greek
- Losses control
- "Norma —"
- "Kapow!"
- Refusing to listen
- TV's Matlock
- Inc. overseas
- Vegas opener
- Licensed

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ZEDS STETS AWOL
ECRU KODAK DOLE
STOPPINGBYWOODS
TOPER ELLIPSE
ROTIC EAST
DOL TONT BEIGES
LIE OCEAN ORME
ONASNOWEVENING
OCRE SEVEN DUE
WONADS DELL SIR

MALARIA SAURA
ROBERTEROSTROEM
ARCS RENOS ARAM
JESS ERIDE ZERO



Puzzle by Robert M. White

26 Actress Raines find

27 F B I agent's communication

28 Mom's offering

29 Hasten

30 Emolument

31 Heavens

32 Andrews of "The Mod Squad"

33 Sourdough's

34 Of no use

35 Straight. Prefix

36 "Nothing doing!"

37 Jaijopy

38 Eye color

39 Like sharp cheese

40 It may be fatal

41 One from Hanover

42 "Lucid" stream, to Thomas Gray

43 Sartre's sees

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